

underlined as shown on the attachment entitled "REVISED CLAIMS". To aid review all pending claims are shown thereon whether amended or not.

Remarks

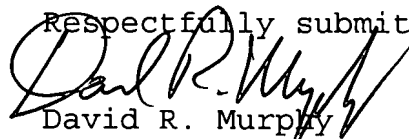
To facilitate response, the undersigned has numbered the paragraphs of the last office action, calling the first paragraph on Page 2 "Paragraph 15" and numbering the remaining paragraphs sequentially.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance in Paragraph 19 of Claims 25, 26, and 27. The Examiner is also thanked for the indication, in Paragraph 18, of the allowability of dependent Claim 4, if rewritten in independent form and for indicating the allowability of other selected claims. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the language of Claim 1 from which it originally depended. No rejection under 35 USC 112 was raised against the language of Claim 1 and the language of this claim, which is now in Claim 4, is believed to be free of any such objection.

In Paragraph 17, it has been assumed that by the expression ---Claims -3---, that the Examiner meant to say "Claims 1-3". Please advise if this assumption is in error.

In summary it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been overcome by argument or amendment, and that the Examiner would be justified in passing the case to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited. In view of the above, a discussion of the remaining paragraphs of the Office Action is deemed superfluous.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment "REVISED CLAIMS" dated November 2, 1994

REVISED CLAIMS

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1/4. A process for producing an improved thermally insulating [the] jacket [of Claim 1], having an inner wall and an outer wall, and having an inner space between said walls containing an insulating material, wherein said inner space also contains a moisture sorbing material and a getter material, wherein said moisture sorbing material is a moisture sorbing material, having a H₂O vapor pressure lower than 1 Pa at room temperature, characterized by the following steps:

A. evacuating the inner space of the jacket down to a pressure lower than 100 Pa by means of a vacuum pump having a connection between the pump and the inner space of the jacket;

B. exposing said inner space contemporaneously to said moisture sorbing material while keeping the getter in an inactivated form;

C. evacuating said inner space farther, down to a pressure lower than 5 Pa, by means of the vacuum pump;

D. activating said getter; and

E. isolating the jacket from the vacuum pump, by sealing the connection between said vacuum pump and the inner space of the jacket.

2/4. A process according to Claim 1/4 characterized in that during the exposing of step B, the evacuating according to Step A is discontinued.

4/4. A process according to Claim 1/4, characterized in that during the Steps A and B, the inner wall is kept hot at a temperature of not higher than 150°C thus promoting the release of water from the insulation material.

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² 61. A process according to Claim ¹/₄, characterized in that the step B lasts for up to 48 hours.

E3 ⁷/₈. A process according to claim ¹/₄ characterized in that said moisture absorbing material and said getter are lying, in separate locations, against the outer wall of said jacket.

⁸/₈. A process according to Claim ¹/₈ characterized in that said moisture sorbing material and said getter are arranged in a container subdivided into an inner zone and an outer zone by a porous septum, wherein:

- the inner zone contains said getter;
- the outer zone is communicating with the inner zone containing said insulating material and contains said moisture sorbing material which prevents the passage of water vapour through said septum and towards said getter.

⁸/₁₀. A process according to Claim ⁸/₈ characterized in that said container is a vertical box having an opening at its uppermost portion and a planar septum.

⁸/₁₀11. A process according to Claim ⁸/₈ characterized in that said container is a toroidal box having a radial or planar septum.

E4 ⁹/₁₁12. A process according to Claim ⁹/₁₀, characterized in that said septum is horizontal.

E5 ⁸/₁₃14. A process according to Claim ⁸/₈, characterized in that said container is made from a substantially water-free material, selected from the group consisting of metal, glass, ceramics and combinations thereof.

16 14 16. A process according to Claim ¹/₄, characterized in that said getter material is an alloy having the formula BaLi_4 .

15 15 17. A process according to Claim ¹/₄ wherein step B lasts from about 2 to about 48 hours.

17 3 18. A process according to Claim ²/₅ wherein step B lasts from about 2 to about 48 hours.

15 5 19. A process according to Claim ⁴/₆ wherein step B lasts from about 2 to about 48 hours.

18 16 20. A process according to Claim ¹/₄, characterized in that said septum is horizontal.

17 17 21. (AMENDED) A jacket of Claim ¹/₄ [1] wherein said moisture sorbing material is selected from the group consisting of barium oxide, strontium oxide, phosphorous oxide, and mixtures thereof.

18 18 25. An improved thermally insulating jacket, having an inner wall and an outer wall, and having an inner space between said walls completely or partially filled with an insulating material, wherein said inner space also contains:

A. a moisture sorbing material selected from the group consisting of barium oxide, strontium oxide, phosphorous oxide, and mixtures thereof; and

B. a getter material which is an alloy of the formula BaLi_4 .

19 26. An improved thermally insulating jacket, having an inner wall and an outer wall, and having an inner space between said walls completely or partially filled with an insulating material, wherein said inner space also contains:

A. a moisture sorbing material selected from the group consisting of barium oxide, strontium oxide, phosphorous oxide, and mixtures thereof; and

B. a getter material which is an alloy of the formula BaLi_4 ; and

C. a hydrogen converter selected from the group consisting of osmium oxide, iridium oxide, ruthenium oxide, rhodium oxide and palladium oxide.

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27. An improved thermally insulating jacket, having an inner wall and an outer wall, and having an inner space between said walls completely or partially filled with an insulating material, wherein said inner space also contains:

A. a moisture sorbing material which is barium oxide; and

B. a getter material which is an alloy of the formula BaLi_4 ; and

C. a hydrogen converter which is palladium oxide.
